

REMARKS

Claims 2-5 are pending in the present application. Claims 2 and 3 have been amended. Claim 1 has been canceled.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. 119

Applicant notes the Examiner's acknowledgment of the Claim for Priority under 35 U.S.C. 119, and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

Disclosure

The disclosure has been objected to in view of the informalities as listed on page 2 of the current Office Action dated February 9, 2005. The title of the application has been corrected as requested by the Examiner. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw this objection.

Drawings

The drawings have been objected to, as the Examiner has required that Fig. 1 be denoted as "PRIOR ART". Enclosed is one (1) red-inked drawing Annotated Sheet, wherein Fig. 1 has been denoted as "PRIOR ART". Also enclosed is one (1) drawing Replacement Sheet, incorporating the above noted correction. **The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt and approval of the drawing Replacement Sheet.**

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 102

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by the Orlidge et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,397,353).

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes the Examiner's acknowledgment that claims 4 and 5 are allowed.

Applicant also respectfully notes the Examiner's acknowledgment that claims 2 and 3 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In view of the acknowledgment of allowable subject matter, claims 2 and 3 have been amended to be in independent form, merely to advance prosecution of this application. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to acknowledge that claims 2 and 3 are allowed.

Conclusion

As noted above, claims 2 and 3 have been amended merely to be in independent form, in view of the Examiner's acknowledgment of allowable subject matter. Since claims 2 and 3 have been amended merely to be in independent form, rather than to further distinguish over any cited prior art, the amendments to claims 2 and 3 should not be construed as narrowing scope within the meaning of *Festo*.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the corresponding rejection, and to pass the claims of the present application to issue, for

at least the above reasons.

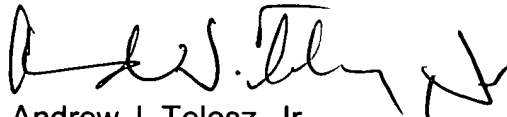
In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, please contact Andrew J. Telesz, Jr. (Reg. No. 33,581) at (571) 283-0720 in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss these matters.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicant hereby petitions for an extension of one (1) month to June 9, 2005, for the period in which to file a response to the outstanding Office Action. The required fee of \$120.00 should be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0238.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment for any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0238.

Respectfully submitted,

VOLENTINE FRANCOS & WHITT, P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. J. Telesz, Jr.', followed by a stylized flourish.

Andrew J. Telesz, Jr.
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Enclosures: One (1) drawing Annotated Sheet
One (1) drawing Replacement Sheet



FIG. 1
PRIOR ART

